

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
465 S. KING STREET, #103
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

JON S. ITOMURA
CHAIR

NAOMI U. KUWAYE
COMMISSIONER

COLIN A. YOST
COMMISSIONER

Telephone: (808) 586-2020
Facsimile: (808) 586-2066

Website: puc.hawaii.gov
E-mail: puc@hawaii.gov

Testimony of the Public Utilities Commission

To the
House Committee on
Consumer Protection & Commerce

March 4, 2026
2:00 p.m.

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Members of the Committee:

Measure: H.B. No. 1984, H.D.2
Title: RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

Position:

The Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") offers the following comments for consideration.

Comments:

The Commission supports the intent of this measure to establish a self-certification process for customer energy resources and for clarification relating to no-rise certifications.

The Commission believes that self-certification relating to customer sided energy resources such as solar and battery energy storage systems could work so long as contractors are operating safely installing to a set specification. The Commission appreciates the Committee's clarification of the no-rise certifications as it relates to distributed energy resource deployment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
Acting Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Wednesday, March 4, 2026
2:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 329

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1984 HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

House Bill 1984 House Draft 2 proposes to require government entities in the State that issue building permits to establish a self-certification process for behind-the-meter, customer-sited solar distributed energy resource systems that deems permit applications approved and allows applicants to proceed to build solar distributed energy resource systems immediately. This bill also proposes to require government entities in the State that issue building permits to develop guidance for determining specific conditions when a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) -mandated No-Rise Certification is not required for a solar distributed energy resource system located in a regulatory floodway. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of this measure and offers the following comments.**

The State and counties are participating communities in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and are subject to compliance with federal regulations set forth with the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§4001).

The Department appreciates the House Committee on Water & Land (WAL) for recognizing our concern that landscape architects should not be considered qualified to certify the flood zone attestation form. We respectfully recommend that the corresponding amendments adopted in House Draft 2 (Page 3, Lines 17-18) be retained.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 5:00:41 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Schopen	Alternate Energy Inc	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Nakada Grandinetti, and Committee Members:

I strongly support HB1984 HD2, which streamlines permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage and provides clarity regarding FEMA No-Rise requirements in regulatory floodways.

This bill was refined in consultation with DLNR, Hawaii’s administrator of the National Flood Insurance Program, and maintains full compliance with floodplain regulations. Rooftop solar installed on existing structures does not increase flood risk or obstruct flood flow when properly installed.

Permitting delays increase project costs and slow clean energy adoption. HB1984 HD2 reduces unnecessary barriers while maintaining safety and accountability.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass **HB1984 HD2**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 8:36:23 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
PAUL OREM	Photonworks Engineering	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Nakada Grandinetti, and Committee Members:

I **VERY strongly support HB1984 HD2**, which streamlines permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage and provides clarity regarding FEMA No-Rise requirements in regulatory floodways.

This bill was refined in consultation with DLNR, Hawaii’s administrator of the National Flood Insurance Program, and maintains full compliance with floodplain regulations. Rooftop solar installed on existing structures does not increase flood risk or obstruct flood flow when properly installed.

Permitting delays increase project costs and slow clean energy adoption. HB1984 HD2 reduces unnecessary barriers while maintaining safety and accountability.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass **HB1984 HD2**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Paul Orem CEO Photonworks Engineering

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 8:58:48 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isidro Villaflor	PV Tech	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Nakada Grandinetti, and Committee Members:

I strongly support HB1984 HD2, which streamlines permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage and provides clarity regarding FEMA No-Rise requirements in regulatory floodways.

This bill was refined in consultation with DLNR, Hawaii’s administrator of the National Flood Insurance Program, and maintains full compliance with floodplain regulations. Rooftop solar installed on existing structures does not increase flood risk or obstruct flood flow when properly installed.

Permitting delays increase project costs and slow clean energy adoption. HB1984 HD2 reduces unnecessary barriers while maintaining safety and accountability.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass **HB1984 HD2**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sid Villaflor



To: The House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce (CPC)
From: Sherry Pollack, Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org
Date: Wednesday, March 4, 2026, 2pm

In strong support of HB1984 HD2

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and members of the CPC committee,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawai'i chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org is in **strong support of HB1984 HD2** which would, by 7/1/2027, require government entities in the State that issue building permits to establish a self-certification process for behind-the-meter, customer-sited solar distributed energy resource systems that deems permit applications approved and allows applicants to proceed to build solar distributed energy resource systems immediately. This measure further requires government entities in the State that issue building permits to develop guidance for determining specific conditions when a Federal Emergency Management Agency-mandated No-Rise Certification is not required for a solar distributed energy resource system located in a regulatory floodway.

HB1984 HD2 addresses permitting issues that impede progress on Hawai'i's renewable energy and climate resilience goals. This bill offers common-sense measures that will streamline solar permitting **without compromising on safety**. Addressing these permitting issues is essential if Hawai'i is to achieve its decarbonization goals, reduce costs for residents, and become more resilient.

Bottom line: If a duly licensed design professional certifies that a solar project's plans are compliant with all applicable laws and codes, the project should not be delayed from proceeding to construction. The final compliance review and approval can occur at inspection. This will speed up the overall process and significantly enhance current efforts at the municipal level.

With Hawai'i's residents suffering high monthly electric bills, and the impacts of climate change already being felt, we need to move forward on smart solutions that will help to stimulate our economy and make us more resilient. The current system for processing permits is untenable and a detriment to Hawai'i achieving our clean energy goals. This measure will remove unnecessary barriers and move us to the clean-energy economy we need.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** for this very important legislation.

Sherry Pollack
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 7:39:32 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Keahiolalo	EP Cube	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Nakada Grandinetti, and Committee Members:

I **strongly support HB1984 HD2**, which streamlines permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage and provides clarity regarding FEMA No-Rise requirements in regulatory floodways.

This bill was refined in consultation with DLNR, Hawaii’s administrator of the National Flood Insurance Program, and maintains full compliance with floodplain regulations. Rooftop solar installed on existing structures does not increase flood risk or obstruct flood flow when properly installed.

Permitting delays increase project costs and slow clean energy adoption. HB1984 HD2 reduces unnecessary barriers while maintaining safety and accountability.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass **HB1984 HD2**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kim Keahiolalo

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 8:01:55 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeffrey Kaemmerlen	Sunspear Energy	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Nakada Grandinetti, and Committee Members:

I strongly support HB1984 HD2, which streamlines permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage and provides clarity regarding FEMA No-Rise requirements in regulatory floodways.

This bill was refined in consultation with DLNR, Hawaii’s administrator of the National Flood Insurance Program, and maintains full compliance with floodplain regulations. Rooftop solar installed on existing structures does not increase flood risk or obstruct flood flow when properly installed.

Permitting delays increase project costs and slow clean energy adoption. HB1984 HD2 reduces unnecessary barriers while maintaining safety and accountability.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass **HB1984 HD2**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Jeffrey Kaemmerlen
CEO
Sunspear

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 8:06:41 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julian Kahumana	Alternate Energy Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Nakada Grandinetti, and Committee Members:

I strongly support HB1984 HD2, which streamlines permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage and provides clarity regarding FEMA No-Rise requirements in regulatory floodways.

My name is Julian Kahumana, and I work at Alternate Energy Hawaii, a local solar installation company based in Pearl City. In my daily work designing and installing residential and commercial solar systems, I see firsthand how permitting delays add unnecessary cost and time to projects that are critical to reaching our state's renewable goals.

The self-certification process established by this bill is a practical, responsible reform. It allows licensed design professionals—engineers, architects, and surveyors—to verify code compliance, while preserving all safety and floodplain management requirements. This is not a shortcut around safety; it is a removal of administrative bottleneck that slows projects without adding meaningful protection.

This bill was refined in consultation with DLNR, Hawaii's administrator of the National Flood Insurance Program, and maintains full compliance with floodplain regulations. Rooftop solar installed on existing structures does not increase flood risk or obstruct flood flow when properly installed.

For local installers and the families we serve, faster permitting means lower costs, more jobs, and accelerated progress toward energy independence for Hawaii.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB1984 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Julian Kahumana

March 4, 2026, 2 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol
Conference Room 329 and Videoconference

To: House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair
Rep. Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair

From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii
Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1984 HD2 — RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Aloha chair, vice chair and other committee members,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii **supports** [HB1984 HD2](#), which would require that each county establish a self-certification process for the approval of certain solar energy systems and change certain flood-zone rules for solar energy systems.

Self-certification programs allow qualified architects and engineers to approve permits without review from county building departments. Mandating that self-certification be an option for individuals interested in installing solar panels on their homes or businesses would streamline the process.

As Grassroot identified in its 2024 report "[Seven low-cost ways to speed up permitting in Hawaii](#)," solar applications often make up a large part of county building permit reviews. According to the report:

"Obtaining building permits to install new solar panels and solar-plus-storage systems can be a lengthy process. This is due in part to the sheer volume of building permits filed for solar panels. In Hawai'i County, for example, almost one-third of permits issued between November 2024 and March 2024 — about 1,300 — were for residential solar panels.

During that time, Hawai'i County had an average approval time of 33 days for residential solar projects, provided the permits were not returned to the applicants for corrections. Non-residential solar permits had a 45-day average approval time."¹

The City and County of Honolulu already offers a self-certification process and an online permitting tool for solar panels; however, implementation has hit a few snags and approval times are not yet as fast as they could be. Still, Honolulu has been issuing solar permits faster than other building permits.

For example, between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024, 47% of permits issued in Honolulu were tagged as "solar" or "solarPVinstallation." The wait time for these permits, from application to issuance, averaged 38 days, compared to 239 days for all other permits.²

Since the Honolulu City Council adopted a self-certification process for solar projects in 2024,³ the other counties have a model to follow if this bill advances.

This legislation would also require the counties to create guidelines for how and when the Federal Emergency Management Agency's "no-rise/no-impact" rules for flood zones shall apply to certain solar projects.

These flood-zone rules are intended to discourage construction in areas with higher flood risks; however, there is no reason that solar panels on a home in a flood zone would increase the home's risk for flooding, so streamlining this process makes sense.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ted Kefalas
Director of Strategic Campaigns
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

¹ Jonathan Helton, "[Seven low-cost ways to speed up permitting in Hawaii](#)," Grassroot Institute of Hawaii, October 2024, p. 7.

² Calculations performed using: "[Building Permits - January 1, 2005 through June 30, 2024](#)," Data.gov, July 13, 2024.

³ Honolulu City and County [Ordinance 24-30](#).



March 3, 2026

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Nakada Grandinetti, and Committee Members:

I strongly support HB1984 HD2 to streamline permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage and provide clarity regarding FEMA No-Rise requirements in regulatory floodways.

This bill was refined in consultation with DLNR, Hawaii's administrator of the National Flood Insurance Program, and maintains full compliance with floodplain regulations. Rooftop solar installed on existing structures does not increase flood risk or obstruct flood flow when properly installed.

Permitting delays increase project costs and slow clean energy adoption. HB1984 HD2 reduces unnecessary barriers while maintaining safety and accountability.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass **HB1984 HD2**.

Mahalo,

G. Robert Johnston
President

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 8:59:22 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Ah Sue	Malama Solar	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Nakada Grandinetti, and Committee Members:

I strongly support HB1984 HD2, which streamlines permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage and provides clarity regarding FEMA No-Rise requirements in regulatory floodways.

This bill was refined in consultation with DLNR, Hawaii’s administrator of the National Flood Insurance Program, and maintains full compliance with floodplain regulations. Rooftop solar installed on existing structures does not increase flood risk or obstruct flood flow when properly installed.

Permitting delays increase project costs and slow clean energy adoption. HB1984 HD2 reduces unnecessary barriers while maintaining safety and accountability.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass **HB1984 HD2**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



Legislative Testimony of Sunrun Inc.
Before the CPC Committee
March 4, 2026

IN SUPPORT of HB1984 HD2 – Relating to Renewable Energy

Dear Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Nakada Grandinetti, and distinguished Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce,

Sunrun is the nation’s leading home solar, battery storage and energy services company, and has a long and proud history in Hawai‘i with office and warehouse locations on O‘ahu, Maui, and Hawai‘i Islands. We directly employ more than 200 professional solar workers across the islands, including sales/marketers, customer experience professionals, and installation team members including electrical inspectors, technicians, forepersons and warehouse personnel.

Sunrun strongly supports HB1984 HD2, which would establish a solar permitting self-certification pathway for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage projects, appropriately maintaining safety and accountability by relying on licensed design professionals and clarifying critical FEMA flood zone requirements. This balanced approach will help reduce delays, lower costs, and support local solar businesses while maintaining full compliance with applicable codes and laws.

Lengthy and unpredictable permitting timelines add real costs to solar projects and make it harder for Hawai‘i residents and businesses to invest in clean energy, especially as the federal Section 25D tax credit is scheduled to expire. Reducing permitting-related soft costs is one of the most effective tools available at the state and county level to keep solar affordable.

For years, Sunrun projects located in FEMA flood zones have frequently been held up in permitting processes, sometimes causing year-long delays, contributing significantly to soft costs borne by customers. Our team has worked to address these issues over the years with other industry partners, thus we enthusiastically support this measure which includes important clarifications regarding FEMA flood zone requirements that were developed in consultation with the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). These updates preserve full safety and floodplain compliance while addressing real-world permitting bottlenecks.

HB1984 HD2 would significantly improve the permitting processes for rooftop solar and storage projects, both by establishing a self-certification pathway and clarifying FEMA flood zone requirements. As a national provider of solar, storage, and energy services, Sunrun strongly supports HB1984 HD2 and respectfully urges the committee to advance this measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this critical legislation.

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce:

Kauai Climate Action Coalition (KCAC), a group of more than 150 residents, supports HB1984 HD2 because it reduces costs for families that install rooftop solar without sacrificing safety.

Many KCAC members enjoy the benefits of rooftop solar, but we acknowledge that cost and permitting issues make installation rooftop solar difficult even for those with a roof. This bill reduces often lengthy permitting timelines, redundant reviews, and administrative uncertainty. These add labor and financing costs to rooftop solar projects. The bill also reduces the timeline for installation of rooftop solar. These changes will enable families to more quickly enjoy the benefits of clean, renewable energy.

Of course, we all want to make sure that changes will maintain the safety of rooftop solar. This bill specifies that only duly licensed design professionals can certify solar projects. They must attest compliance with all applicable costs and laws. The bill also includes other safety measures, such as excluding projects located in Special Flood Hazard Areas from self-certification eligibility.

Kauai Climate Action Coalition urges the committee to pass the bill.

Mahalo!

Helen Cox, Kalaheo

Chair, Kauai Climate Action Coalition



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

Testimony of the Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) Regarding HB1984 HD2, Relating to Renewable Energy, Before the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Nakada Grandinetti, and Committee Members:

The Hawaii Solar Energy Association (HSEA) **strongly supports HB1984 HD2**. This measure removes unnecessary administrative barriers to customer-sited solar and energy storage by establishing a permitting self-certification pathway and by providing important clarity regarding FEMA No-Rise Certification requirements in regulatory floodways.

HSEA is a nonprofit trade association founded in 1977, representing local solar contractors, clean energy companies, equipment manufacturers, and service providers doing business in Hawaii.

Modernizing Permitting to Reduce Delays and Costs

Hawaii’s commitment to achieving 100% renewable electricity by 2045 requires rapid, cost-effective deployment of distributed energy resources (DERs), particularly rooftop solar paired with storage. Yet permitting delays and inconsistent review processes continue to add time, cost, and uncertainty for homeowners and contractors.

HB1984 provides a practical solution by requiring permitting authorities to establish a self-certification pathway for qualified behind-the-meter solar and energy storage systems. Licensed design professionals would certify compliance with applicable codes and laws, allowing projects to proceed without unnecessary administrative delay while maintaining professional accountability.

This reform modernizes workflow without compromising public health or safety. It reduces redundant review for routine, code-compliant projects while preserving oversight for higher-risk installations.

Lowering Soft Costs Amid Federal Policy Changes

With the scheduled expiration of the federal Section 25D residential tax credit, out-of-pocket costs for Hawaii homeowners will increase. Reducing non-hardware “soft costs” is one of the most effective tools available at the state and county level to offset that impact.



Hawaii Solar Energy Association
Serving Hawaii Since 1977

Lengthy permitting timelines increase labor expenses, financing carry costs, and project uncertainty. By enabling construction to begin upon submission of certified plans and by creating predictable review processes, HB1984 shortens installation timelines and lowers overall project costs. This cost control is critical to sustaining local solar businesses, protecting clean energy jobs, and preserving consumer access.

Coordination with DLNR and NFIP Compliance

HB1984 reflects improvements developed in consultation with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Hawaii’s designated administrator of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

A key refinement requires permitting authorities to develop FEMA-accepted guidance identifying specific conditions under which a No-Rise Certification is not required for solar DER systems located in regulatory floodways. This does not create a blanket exemption from floodplain regulations. Rather, it provides clarity for a narrow category of installations on existing structures that do not increase obstruction or flood elevation and that remain fully compliant with all applicable federal, state, and county requirements.

Clear coordination with DLNR helps reduce confusion and delay while preserving Hawaii’s compliance with NFIP standards and protecting community flood resilience.

Conclusion

HB1984 is a balanced measure that reduces administrative friction, lowers soft costs, maintains professional accountability, and preserves full compliance with building and floodplain safety requirements.

At a time of federal uncertainty and rising energy costs, Hawaii must address the barriers within its control. Modernizing permitting and clarifying floodway requirements are practical steps that support affordability, resilience, and progress toward our clean energy goals.

HSEA respectfully urges the Committee to **advance HB1984 HD2**.

Sincerely,

/s/ Rocky Mould
Executive Director



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair

Representative Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, March 4, 2026

TIME: 2:00pm

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE & Conference Room 329

LATE

Theodore (Ted) Peck

President, Holu Hou Energy

99-1026 Iwaena Street

Aiea, HI 96701

RE: HB 1984 HD2 RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY.

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Nakada Grandinetti, and Committee Members:

I **strongly support HB1984 HD2**, which streamlines permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage and provides clarity regarding FEMA No-Rise requirements in regulatory floodways.

This bill was refined in consultation with DLNR, Hawaii's administrator of the National Flood Insurance Program, and maintains full compliance with floodplain regulations. Rooftop solar installed on existing structures does not increase flood risk or obstruct flood flow when properly installed.

Permitting delays increase project costs and slow clean energy adoption. HB1984 HD2 reduces unnecessary barriers while maintaining safety and accountability.

Licensed design professionals (excluding Landscape Architects, which the bill excludes) in the state of Hawaii must have:

Architect

- A bachelor's or master's degree in architecture from a board-approved program **plus** relevant experience; OR
- A degree in a related field (e.g., pre-architecture, arts & sciences) with additional professional experience; OR
- Technical training plus more years of experience; OR
- Significant experience (e.g., ~11 years) without a degree may be accepted.

Engineer

- A four-year degree in engineering, engineering technology, or related sciences from an approved institution **plus** several years of relevant engineering experience; OR
- Extensive lawful engineering experience (often 8–12 years) may substitute for formal education.

All these professions require a minimum amount of **lawful professional experience approved by the board**, typically under the supervision of a licensed practitioner. **Architects** and **engineers** must pass **professional licensing examinations** (e.g., the Architect Registration Examination (ARE) for architects, the relevant NCEES exams for engineers).

They must complete a detailed application process with verification that these requirements are met, and the boards have discretion to ensure that the work is of a character satisfactory to the board. Moreover, according to HRS 464-8, “No person shall be eligible for licensure as a professional engineer, architect, land surveyor, or landscape architect if the person does not possess a history of honesty, truthfulness, financial integrity, and fair dealing.” These licensees are from among the best and smartest our society has to offer. Moreover, having worked with dozens of licensed professionals over the last several decades, these fields draw people of high integrity and excellence.

Additionally, these professionals pay for insurance for their practices, which is an additional layer of review they undergo. All this to say that these professionals have every reason to be compliant and not put their livelihood at risk, and not allowing them to sign off on the compliance of their submission is insulting.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass **HB1984 HD2**.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your time in considering my comments.

Respectfully,



Ted Peck
President, Holu Hou Energy



LATE

LATE

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 10:26:00 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matsu Thornton	Greenpath Technologies Inc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I support the intent of this bill to streamline photovoltaic permitting through a self-certification process. Shifting the responsibility for producing safe, code-compliant designs from the county to the licensed engineers who prepare and certify those designs is a reasonable approach that can improve efficiency while maintaining professional accountability.

However, I respectfully recommend several safeguards to ensure the process maintains public safety and design quality.

First, the city or county should continue to verify that each submitted engineering package contains all required documentation before issuing a permit. At minimum, this should include a standardized checklist requiring items such as a site plan, structural calculations, electrical single-line diagram, equipment specifications, and other required drawings and documentation.

Second, all drawings should be properly sealed and certified by the appropriate licensed professionals. Structural drawings should bear the seal of a licensed Structural Professional Engineer, and electrical drawings should be sealed by a licensed Electrical Professional Engineer.

Third, the engineer of record should be required to demonstrate sufficient professional liability insurance coverage to address potential issues related to errors, omissions, or other design deficiencies.

Finally, the certifying engineer should be required to inspect and verify the completed installation. This should include supervising or performing a final inspection confirming that the system was constructed according to the certified design and that the installation complies with applicable codes and safety requirements.

These measures would allow the permitting process to become more efficient while ensuring that licensed professionals remain fully accountable for the safety and quality of the systems they design and certify.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

Respectfully,
Matsu Thornton



House Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs
HB1984 HD2 Hearing on March 4, 2026 at 2:00 pm
Conference Room 329 and videoconference

SUPPORT

My name is John Kawamoto, and I support HB1984 HD2 because it reduces costs for families that install rooftop solar without sacrificing safety.

This bill reduces costs by eliminating lengthy permitting timelines, redundant reviews, and administrative uncertainty, which currently add costs relating to labor and financing to rooftop solar projects. This bill also reduces the timeline for installation of rooftop solar, enabling families to more quickly enjoy the benefits of clean, renewable energy.

This bill ensures safety by specifying that only duly licensed design professionals are allowed to certify solar projects. They are required to attest compliance with all applicable costs and laws. The bill also includes other safety measures, such as excluding projects located in Special Flood Hazard Areas from self-certification eligibility.

For the foregoing reasons, I urge the committee to pass the bill.

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 4:31:33 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Graham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce,

I urge you to pass this bill, as it would streamline the permitting process for rooftop solar systems, reducing costs without sacrificing safety.

Thank you,

Thomas Graham, Honolulu

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 4:46:38 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bobbie Best	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Allows more people to lower electricity bills and cause less pollution

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 5:01:06 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruth Robison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce:

From: Ruth Robison

I have lived in Hilo since 1982. I have 17 solar panels on my roof and want others to have the same benefit.

I support HB1984 HD2 because it reduces costs for families that install rooftop solar without sacrificing safety.

This bill reduces costs by eliminating lengthy permitting timelines, redundant reviews, and administrative uncertainty, which currently add labor and financing costs to rooftop solar projects. This bill also reduces the timeline for installation of rooftop solar, enabling families to more quickly enjoy the benefits of clean, renewable energy.

This bill ensures safety by specifying that only duly licensed design professionals are allowed to certify solar projects. They are required to attest compliance with all applicable costs and laws. The bill also includes other safety measures, such as excluding projects located in Special Flood Hazard Areas from self-certification eligibility.

For the foregoing reasons, I urge the committee to pass the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 5:23:51 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeanne Dennis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Cmembers of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce:

I support this bill because it reduces costs for families that install rooftop solar without sacrificing safety.

This bill reduces costs by eliminating lengthy permitting timelines, redundant reviews, and administrative uncertainty, which currently add labor and financing costs to rooftop solar projects. This bill also reduces the timeline for installation of rooftop solar, enabling families to more quickly enjoy the benefits of clean, renewable energy.

This bill ensures safety by specifying that only duly licensed design professionals are allowed to certify solar projects. They are required to attest compliance with all applicable costs and laws. The bill also includes other safety measures, such as excluding projects located in Special Flood Hazard Areas from self-certification eligibility.

For the foregoing reasons, I urge the committee to pass the bill.

Mahalo!

Jeanne Dennis, Kaneohe

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 5:29:04 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT!

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 7:50:54 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Morin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT FOR HB1984 HD2 (RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY)

Dear Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce:

I'm a long-time advocate for sustainable energy in Hawai'i. I support HB1984 HD2 because it will facilitate the deployment of rooftop solar without compromising safety.

It will reduce costs by streamlining permitting and optimizing the review process. These changes will reduce the costs associated with rooftop solar deployment.

I respectfully urge the committee to pass HB1984 HD2.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

[Noel Morin](#)

Climate, Sustainability, and Resilience Advocate
Hilo, Hawai'i

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 8:10:28 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Radford Nakamura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Nakada Grandinetti, and Committee Members:

I **strongly support HB1984 HD2**, which streamlines permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage and provides clarity regarding FEMA No-Rise requirements in regulatory floodways.

This bill was refined in consultation with DLNR, Hawaii’s administrator of the National Flood Insurance Program, and maintains full compliance with floodplain regulations. Rooftop solar installed on existing structures does not increase flood risk or obstruct flood flow when properly installed.

Permitting delays increase project costs and slow clean energy adoption. HB1984 HD2 reduces unnecessary barriers while maintaining safety and accountability.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass **HB1984 HD2**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Radford Nakamura

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 8:33:28 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeff Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Nakada Grandinetti, and Committee Members:

I **strongly support HB1984 HD2**, which streamlines permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage and provides clarity regarding FEMA No-Rise requirements in regulatory floodways.

This bill was refined in consultation with DLNR, Hawaii’s administrator of the National Flood Insurance Program, and maintains full compliance with floodplain regulations. Rooftop solar installed on existing structures does not increase flood risk or obstruct flood flow when properly installed.

Permitting delays increase project costs and slow clean energy adoption. HB1984 HD2 reduces unnecessary barriers while maintaining safety and accountability.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass **HB1984 HD2**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 1:43:56 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 4:38:31 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Virginia Tincher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce:

I support this bill because it reduces costs for families that install rooftop solar without sacrificing safety.

This bill reduces costs by eliminating lengthy permitting timelines, redundant reviews, and administrative uncertainty, which currently add labor and financing costs to rooftop solar projects. This bill also reduces the timeline for installation of rooftop solar, enabling families to more quickly enjoy the benefits of clean, renewable energy.

This bill ensures safety by specifying that only duly licensed design professionals are allowed to certify solar projects. They are required to attest compliance with all applicable costs and laws. The bill also includes other safety measures, such as excluding projects located in Special Flood Hazard Areas from self-certification eligibility.

For the foregoing reasons, I urge the committee to pass the bill.

Mahalo!

Virginia

Honolulu

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 7:10:00 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
wei lian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Nakada Grandinetti, and Committee Members:

I strongly support HB1984 HD2, which streamlines permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage and provides clarity regarding FEMA No-Rise requirements in regulatory floodways.

This bill was refined in consultation with DLNR, Hawaii’s administrator of the National Flood Insurance Program, and maintains full compliance with floodplain regulations. Rooftop solar installed on existing structures does not increase flood risk or obstruct flood flow when properly installed.

Permitting delays increase project costs and slow clean energy adoption. HB1984 HD2 reduces unnecessary barriers while maintaining safety and accountability.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass **HB1984 HD2**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Wei Lian

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 7:11:39 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Lindborg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because it reduces costs for families that install rooftop solar without sacrificing safety.

Given Hawaii's commitment to foster energy resilience and sustainability this bill makes plenty of sense. The bill offers opportunities to reduce energy costs by eliminating lengthy permitting timelines, redundant reviews, and administrative uncertainty, which currently add labor and financing costs to rooftop solar projects. This bill also reduces the timeline for installation of rooftop solar, enabling families to more quickly enjoy the benefits of clean, renewable energy.

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 8:52:54 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Latkiewicz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Short and sweet. Balcony solar provides an accessible means of providing solar power for both home owners and renters. Balcony solar is portable and relatively affordable, Please support this bill.

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 9:07:18 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Nakada Grandinetti, and Committee Members:

I **strongly support HB1984 HD2**, which streamlines permitting for customer-sited rooftop solar and energy storage and provides clarity regarding FEMA No-Rise requirements in regulatory floodways.

This bill was refined in consultation with DLNR, Hawaii’s administrator of the National Flood Insurance Program, and remains fully compliant with floodplain regulations. Rooftop solar installed on existing structures does not increase flood risk or obstruct flood flow when properly installed.

Permitting delays increase project costs and slow clean energy adoption. HB1984 HD2 reduces unnecessary barriers while maintaining safety and accountability.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass **HB1984 HD2**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1984-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 10:19:05 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronald "Ron" Reilly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce,

I support HB1984 HD2 because it reduces costs for families that install rooftop solar without sacrificing safety.

This bill reduces costs by eliminating lengthy permitting timelines, redundant reviews, and administrative uncertainty, which currently add labor and financing costs to rooftop solar projects. This bill also reduces the timeline for installation of rooftop solar, enabling families to more quickly enjoy the benefits of clean, renewable energy.

This bill ensures safety by specifying that only duly licensed design professionals are allowed to certify solar projects. They are required to attest compliance with all applicable costs and laws. The bill also includes other safety measures, such as excluding projects located in Special Flood Hazard Areas from self-certification eligibility.

For the foregoing reasons, I urge the committee to pass HB1984 HD2.

Thank you, Ron Reilly, Volcano Village